

Message Text

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70

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DHA-02

PRS-01 L-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 /039 W

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R 090017Z APR 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6763

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1457

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UNGA

SUBJECT: ZION SQUARE

1. KEY MEMBERS OF THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL DECIDED APRIL 7 TO DEFER FURTHER ACTION ON THE PROPOSAL TO DESIGNATE A PORTION OF UN PLAZA AS "ZION SQUARE." INCLUDED WERE THE MAJORITY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND THE COUNCILMAN WHO HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED THE ACTION AS A RESPONSE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECISION TO EQUATE ZIONISM WITH RACISM.

2. THE ZION SQUARE PROPOSAL, ALREADY APPROVED BY THE NYC PARKS COMMITTEE AND PLACED ON AGENDA OF FULL CITY COUNCIL, HAD THREE TIMES BEEN TAKEN OFF THE AGENDA OF ACTUAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS. IT IS NOW TO BE DEFERRED SINE DIE TO PERMIT INTERESTED PARTIES TO IDENTIFY A MORE SUITABLE SITE ELSEWHERE. SHOULD AN ATTRACTIVE NON-CONTROVERSIAL SITE PROVE DIFFICULT TO LOCATE, OR SHOULD
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ACTION BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR OTHER UN BODY AGAINST ISRAEL

PROVOKE NEW RESENTMENTS IN NEW YORK, THE ORIGINAL SPONSOR OF THE MEASURE COULD BE EXPECTED TO RENEW HIS PROPOSAL TO GO AHEAD IN UN PLAZA.

3. MEANWHILE, A CITIZENS' GROUP FORMED TO PROMOTE A MEMORIAL TO RALPH BUNCHE AT THE UN PLAZA SITE IS MOVING AHEAD WITH ITS PLANS. THE CITY COUNCIL EARLIER APPROVED LOCATING THE MEMORIAL IN UN PLAZA.

BEGIN NOFORN

4. CITY OFFICIALS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS HAVE BEEN MADE AWARE THAT, FOR FOREIGN POLICY REASONS, USG HOPES ZION SQUARE WILL NOT BE LOCATED IN UN PLAZA. END NOFORN SCRANTON

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